Supply of Janata Clothes

@2828. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that "Janata Clothes" have been made available throughout the country including in the State of Arunachal Pradesh for poorer section of the people; and

(b) if so, whether these are being distributed through Co-operative Stores or through private organisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) The Janata Cloth Scheme is available for implementation by all the States/UTs in the country including Arunachal Pradesh. The Scheme, inter alia, provides for supply of cloth at affordable prices to the poorer section of the people. Currently the scheme is implemented in 19 States and one Union Territory. The State Government of Arunachal Pradesh is yet to come up with a proposal for taking part in the scheme.

(b) Janata Cloth is distributed through retailers of Public Distribution System and outlets of implementing agencies. The retailers of RDS could be cooperatives, private retailers or public sector undertakings.

Upliftment of Poor Handloom Weavers

2829. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that lakhs of handloom weavers have been thrown out of work as a result of export of cotton and cotton yarn;

(b) if so, what remedial steps are being taken by Government for the upliftment of poor handloom weavers;

(c) whether Government have allowed exporters to import duty free silk yarn to earn 100 percent profit while the weavers have been denied any reduction in the import duty of Chinese raw silk; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) There is no evidence to show that lakhs of handloom weavers have been thrown out of work as a result of export of cotton and cotton yarn.

(b) The export quotas for cotton and cotton yarn are released by Government only after taking into consideraton the requirements of domestic textile industry including that of handloom sector. In order to safeguard the interests of handloom sector the export of hank yarn of counts upto 60s is not being permitted.

(c) and (d) Import of dutyfree raw silk is permitted under Advance Licence Scheme and 100% export oriented units only. Under these schemes import is related to production for export purposes. Taking into consideration the hardship being faced by silk handloom weavers on account of inadequate availability as well as high prices of silk, Government of India has decided to import 200 metric tonnes of raw silk. In the budget for 1992-93 the rate of import duty on raw silk has been reduced from 55% to 30% ad valorem.

Loss Suffered by B.I.C.L. Group Companies

2830. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have proposed a provision on Rs. 53 crore for the modernisation of the British India Corporation group of companies during the Eighth Plan period;

(b) whether the losses in the B.I.C. mills during the last one year has gone up and the production capacity of mills have fallen considerably;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to replace the management with experienced one before investing Rs. 53 crores in B.I.C. mills; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) The Ministry of Textiles has proposed a provision of Rs. 53 crores towards modernisation of the British India Corporation Limited group of Companies as a part of its proposals for the 8th Five Year Plan.

(b) Yes, Sir.

@Previously Unstarred Question 2310, transferred from the 12th March, 1992.